

REMARKS:


In the Office action, claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite--specifically claims 1 and 36-38; claims 1, 3, 29-30, 33-35 and 39-41 were rejected under 102(e) as anticipated by Ohmi '933; and claims 2 and 31-32 were rejected as unpatentable over Ohmi in view of Fukushima.

The 112 rejections have been overcome by canceling claims 36-38 and amending claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the claims now meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

As to the rejections on the merits, claim 1 as amended recites that the fitting has first and second rectangular ends that include coplanar surfaces, and with a seal surface formed in each coplanar surface that is recessed from the coplanar surface. An example of this claimed structure is illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 of the present application. The Ohmi structure does not use recessed seal surfaces, but rather seal surfaces that extend away from the rectangular bodies 43, 45. In order to clarify that the present invention is directed to the fitting that provides fluid flow between the surface mount components, the preamble of claim 1 has been amended to distinguish the fitting from the substrate on which the flow components are mounted. Therefore, claim 1 does not read on the blocks 42, 44 of Ohmi. Amended claim 41 similarly distinguishes the fitting from the substrate structure, in claiming the overall manifold system

Respectfully submitted,

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